ISSN 0820-8107

Forestry Canada Forêts Canada

NO. 230

# Forestry Canada - Maritimes Region

# TECHNICAL NOTE

## FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND NATIONAL PARK IN 1989

Personnel of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey regularly monitor national parks for forest insect and disease conditions. Some of the conditions encountered in Prince Edward Island National Park in 1989 are discussed briefly below.

**Spruce budworm** defoliation was severe on white spruce but only in patches at Cavendish and Brackley Beach areas. Moderate defoliation occurred on white spruce in the Green Gables area, where defoliation was severe in 1988.

**Gypsy moth** is a major pest of forest and shade trees in southern Ontario, southern Quebec, and the northeastern U.S. and, recently, southwestern New Brunswick and Western Nova Scotia. The hairy larvae are easily recognized by the five pairs of blue and six pairs of red dots along their back. Twenty-five gypsy moth pheromone traps were placed in the National Park by Parks personnel in 1989 as part of the Province-wide gypsy moth monitoring program. Only one male moth was caught at the Cavendish Campground, however, no other life forms of the gypsy moth were found in the Park. Visitors are requested to report any suspected gypsy moth to Park personnel.

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**INSECTS AND DISEASES**

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**Birch casebearer**, which lives in a cigar-shaped case, feeds between the surface layers of the leaf, reaching as far as it can without leaving the case. This insect damaged 60% of white birch foliage, causing varying degrees of browning, and 28% of wire birch foliage causing similar damage. Alders were moderately browned.

**Winter drying** and **salt spray** continued to affect spruce near the shore areas of the Park. Spruce trees in some campgrounds and along foot paths near the shore are in poor condition from salt spray and compaction from camping activities.

**Birch leafminer**, which feeds between the leaf layers of white and wire birch, caused light damage to 20% of white birch near Cavendish.

The **poplar leaffolding sawfly** larvae, which folds the leaf edge to make a feeding site for itself, affected 67% of trembling aspen foliage at Cavendish and caused light damage near Cavendish Beach.

**Cherry blight** continued to wither and brown foliage on many cherry bushes in the Cavendish area.

Some other pests of interest - a few **hemlock looper** larvae collected near Cavendish; nests of **uglynest caterpillar** were present but not numerous at Cavendish; **eastern spruce gall adelgid** was present on a few shoots of 30% of white spruce at Brackley Beach, and other pests, such as **eastern blackheaded budworm, webspinning sawfly, spruce beetle, spruce budmoths, spruce cone maggot** and **yellowheaded spruce sawfly**, were also present.

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March, 1990

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